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EO 12065: GDS 09/18/86 (INNERMAN, R.) OR-P
TAGS: PINT, JA, KS
SUBJECT: (U) JAPANESE REACTION TO KIM DAE JUNG DEATH
- SENTENCE
REF: (A) TOKYO 16515 (NOTAL); (B) TOKYO 16518 (NOTAL)
1. (U) SUMMARY. NEWS OF KIM'S DEATH SENTENCE, WHICH DOMINATED JAPANESE MEDIA AUGUST 17, PROVOKED LARGE PROTEST RALLY IN DOWNTOWN TOKYO THAT EVENING AT WHICH SOHYO UNIONISTS AND JSP, JCP AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC FEDERATION LEADERS DENOUNCED DEATH SENTENCE AND CALLED ON SUZUKI ADMINISTRATION TO SUSPEND REGULAR GROK-GOJ-INTER-MINISTERIAL CONSULTATIONS, END ALL SUPPORT FOR CHUN GOVERNMENT, AND CANCEL "POLITICAL SETTLEMENT" WITH GROK OVER KIM'S ABDUCTION FROM JAPAN IN 1973. SOHYO LEADERS ALSO ANNOUNCED FORMATION OF NATIONWIDE MOVEMENT TO CAMPAIGN FOR KIM'S RELEASE, INCLUDING DEMONSTRATIONS AT ROK CONSULATES IN JAPAN. MEDIA COMMENTARY UNANIMOUSLY
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DEPLORED SENTENCE AS POLITICALLY-MOTIVATED MOVE BY ROK GOVERNMENT TO ELIMINATE KIM, AND PREDICTED DETERIORATION IN ROK-JAPAN RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.
2. (C) EVENING PROTEST RALLY IN DOWNTOWN TOKYO ATTENDED BY FIVE TO TEN THOUSAND PERSONS HIGHLIGHTED JAPANESE REACTION TO NEWS OF KIM'S DEATH SENTENCE ON SEPTEMBER 17. RALLY, WHICH WAS ORGANIZED JOINTLY BY SOHYO (GENERAL COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS) AND SOUTH KOREAN DISSIDENT GROUPS IN JAPAN, WAS DOMINATED BY DENUNCIATIONS OF COURT MARTIAL AND ROK GOVERNMENT, AND BY CALLS FOR KIM'S RELEASE. SOHYO CHAIRMAN MAKIEDA URGED MASS MOVEMENT IN JAPAN AND ABROAD TO CAMPAIGN FOR COMMUTATION OF SENTENCE. OTHER SPEAKERS, INCLUDING SOCIALIST PARTY CHAIRMAN ASUKATA AND REPRESENTATIVES OF COMMUNIST PARTY AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC FEDERATION, SHARPLY CRITICIZED
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY H. Temple DATE 9/18/82
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

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GOJ FOR WHAT ASUKATA REPORTEDLY DESCRIBED AS ITS "COMPLICITY" IN DEATH SENTENCE. RESOLUTION WAS ALSO ADOPTED CALLING ON GOJ TO INDEFINITELY SUSPEND CABINET-LEVEL TALKS WITH ROK, CEASE ALL FORMS OF SUPPORT FOR CHUN GOVERNMENT, AND RECONSIDER "POLITICAL SETTLEMENT" WITH ROK OVER KIM'S ABDUCTION FROM JAPAN IN 1973.

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3. (U) IN RELATED DEVELOPMENT, SOHYO ANNOUNCED FORMATION OF "KIM DAE JUNG DEATH SENTENCE PROTEST MOVEMENT" WHICH REPORTEDLY WILL INVOLVE NATIONWIDE PROTEST RALLIES, DEMONSTRATIONS AT SOUTH KOREAN CONSULATES IN JAPAN, AND INTENSIFICATION OF "SAVE KIM" SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN. ACCORDING TO SOHYO, SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN ALREADY UNDERWAY

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HAS SO FAR ATTRACTED 1.1 MILLION OUT OF TARGET OF 10 MILLION SIGNATURES.) MOVEMENT ALSO REPORTEDLY WILL INCLUDE SENDING PROTEST TELEGRAMS TO SOUTH KOREAN PRESIDENT CHUN, AND PETITIONING GOJ TO CANCEL "POLITICAL SETTLEMENT," TO CEASE ALL SUPPORT FOR CURRENT ROK GOVERNMENT, AND TO PRESS ROK FOR KIM'S EARLY RELEASE.

4. (U) MEDIA EDITORIALS AND COMMENTARY UNANIMOUSLY DEPLORED DEATH SENTENCE AS MISCARRIAGE OF JUSTICE AND POLITICALLY-MOTIVATED MOVE BY CHUN GOVERNMENT TO ELIMINATE KIM. MEDIA ALSO PREDICTED THAT KIM'S EXECUTION WOULD LEAD TO DETERIORATION IN ROK-JAPAN RELATIONS, INCLUDING POSSIBLE SUSPENSION OF REGULAR INTERMINISTERIAL CONSULTATIONS AND REDUCTION OF JAPANESE AID TO SOUTH KOREA. ADDITIONALLY, SEVERAL EDITORIALS CALLED ON GOJ TO RECONSIDER POLITICAL SETTLEMENT WITH ROK. MANSFIELD

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